REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending.

By this Supplemental Response, Applicants submit accurate English-language translations of priority documents JP 2001-013116 filed January 22, 2001 and JP 2001-332916 filed October 30, 2001. Thus, Applicants have now perfected the claim for priority.

Because Iijima (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0154257) has a filing date of December 10, 2001 and the priority documents have filing dates of January 22, 2001 and October 30, 2001, respectively, it is respectfully submitted that Iijima cannot be used as prior art against the claimed invention.

Therefore, claims 1-13 define patentable subject matter. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-13 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment:
English-language Translations of Priority Documents
JP 2001-013116 and JP 2001-332916

Date: September 15, 2004

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